Indian Air Force Aircraft crashes

*16. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Miniter of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have gone into the causes for high frequency of IAF aircraft accidents in recent years, especially those involving MIG-Combat aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the main findings about the causes of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main causes of such accidents are technical failure/defects, human error and bird strike.

Blood Banks in the Country

*17. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI PASUMPONTHA KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of blood banks in the country;

(b) what is the number of private blood banks; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to solve the problem of shortage of human blood needed for the life saving surgical operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) According to information received from State Governments the total number of blood banks in the country is 720.

(b) The number of private blood banks is 180.

(c) In view of the recent developments in Surgery, the increasing requirements of blood in the country are met from voluntary donors; replacements donors; and professional donors. Steps taken by Governments to improve the availability of blood include the following:

(i) Campaigns encouraging voluntary blood donation programmes.

(ii) Development of blood bank facilities in a phased manner.

(iii) Leading role to the Indian Red Cross Society in organising blood collection and establishing linkages with hospitals; and

(iv) Promoting rational use of blood by use of blood components instead of whole blood.

Setting up of a Medical College at Chandigarh

*18. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long-standing public demand for the setting up of a Medical College at Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not starting the same so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the availability of a large number of qualified medical practitioners in the country and in the light of the recommendations of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare not to allow opening of any new medical

college in the country, the Government of India is not in favour of establishment of any new medical college in the country.

Shifting of the Thorium Plant at Trombay

*19. DR. BAPU KALDATE : will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Thorium Plant at Trombay near Bombay to another place;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to provide alternative employment to over two hundred employees presently working at the plant; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The existing Plant is to be replaced as it is very old and beyond economical repair and service. The Atomic Energy Commission has decided to shift out of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre premises in Tromby, plants and laboratories which are not directly related to the R&D programme of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The employees who opt to shift to the new location will be transferred, whereas others will be provided alternative employment in other units of Deptt. of Atomic Energy located in Bombay. Those who opt to take voluntary retirement will be paid due compensation.

Post Offices in Assam

*20. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of Post Offices set up in Assam from 1986 to 1988 and till date;

(b) whether there is a demand from the people of Assam to set up more Post Offices in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO):

Statement

(a) The number of new post offices opened in Assam from 1985-86 to 1989-90 (upto 30 June, 1989) is as follows:

Year	Number of Post Offices opened
1985-86	Nil
1986-87	Nil
1987-88	26
1988-89	22
1989-90 (Up to 30-6-1989)	25
TOTAL	73

(b) and (c) Requests have been received for opening post offices a